

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2918

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

RUDKSAWCAMEMBASSY SOFIA 2073

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RO, UR

SUBJECT: OPEN ROMANIAN-SOVIET LITERARY POLEMIC BREAKS OUT

1. ROMANIAN LITERARY WEEKLY "ROMANIA LITERARA" (RL) (MAY 29)
HAS TAKEN SHOT AT "LITERATURNAYA GAZETA" (USSR) OVER SOVIET
PAPER'S NEGATIVE REVIEW OF MARIN PREDA'S NOVEL "DELIRUL".
THIS IS MOST OPENLY POLEMICAL POLITICO-LITERARY BLAST
ROMANIANS HAVE MADE AGAINST SOVIETS IN EMBASSY'S MEMORY AND

IS NOT GOOD AUGURIOR ACTUAL STATE OF ROMANIAN-SOVIET
IDEOLOGICAL RELATIONS.

2. CRITIC OVID S. CROHMALNICEANU LAMBASTS K. SAVIN (LITGAZ, MAY
14) FOR ADOPTING "ATTITUDE OF ALL-KNOWING PROFESSORIAL SUPERIORITY"
AS IF CAPABLE OF TEACHING PREDA HOW TO WRITE HIS BOOK;
"MIXING HIMSELF WITHOUT ANY RETICENCE" IN ROMANIAN INTERNAL
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LITERARY DEBATE

BEFORE ROMANIAN CRITICS THEMSELVES HAD
FINISHED WITH PREDA: AND "MAKING GRAVE IDEOLOGICAL
REPROACHES".

3. SAVIN IS ACCUSED OF SETTING HIMSELF UP AS "SUPREME JUDGE", GIVING OUT "SENTENCE WITHOUT APPEAL", "PRESCRIBING TO AUTHOR" HOW HE SHOULD CONTINUE NOVEL, AND USING SUCH LABELS AS "IDEALIST CONCEPTIONS" AND "LOSS OF CLASS CRITERIA" WHICH REVIVE MEMORIES OF "WELL-KNOWN PRACTICES OF LAMENTABLE, NOT TO SAY NOTORIOUS EFFECTS" (I.E. STALINISM AND BULLYING OF EE SATELLITES). CROHMALNICEANU ADDS THAT IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND HOW LITGAZ "SHELTERED IN ITS PAGES SUCH AN UNACCEPTABLE INTERVENTION" ON WHATEVER PRETEXT.

4. COMMENT: ROMANIAN INTELLECTUALS FIND RL PIECE EXTREMELY UNUSUAL, ESPECIALLY IN POUW-1971 PERIOD WHEN GOR HAS ESCHEWED GRATUITOUS IRRITANTS IN RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. PREDA'S NOVEL, READ HERE WITH SOME SURPRISE, HAS RECEIVED SOME MILD KNOCKS FOR GOING TOO FAR IN REHABILITATING THE 1940-44 DICTATOR GENERAL ANTONESCU PORTRAYING HIM AS MAN TRAPPED BY CIRCUMSTANCES IN 1940 AND FINALLY HAVING THE MERIT OF CRACKING DOWN ON THE IRON GUARD EXTREMISTS IN 1941. MOST REVIEWS HAVE PRAISED NOVEL'S LITERARY QUALITIES WHILE IGNORING ITS POLITICAL SIDE. DEFINITIVE CRITICAL POSITION HAS NOT YET EMERGED, BUT NOVEL IS WIDELY RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED FROM SCHEMA APPROVED BY CEASESCU HIMSELF AND FROM HISTORICAL SOURCE MATERIALS MADE ESPECIALLY AVAILABLE TO PREDA. CROHMALNICEANU, IN NICE IRONY, IS BESSARABIAN JEW HIMSELF WAS AUTHOR OF SOME OF MOST VIOLENT DIATRIBES, FOLLOWING SOVIET LINE IN STALIN'S EPOCH, AGAINST FOREIGN LITERATURE (BUT WHO HAS SINCE REFORMED WITH CHANGE IN RCP LINE).

5. DESPITE ABOVE OUTBURST, EVIDENTLY TRIGGERED BY WHAT RCP FEELS IS EXCESSIVE SOVIET PUBLIC MEDDLING WHICH BROKE TACIT UNDERSTANDING, ROMANIAN LITERARY PUBLICATIONS STILL KEEP POLILY TONE GENERALLY TOWARD SOVIETS, AND OLD STALINIST M. BENIUC, AFTER PUBLISHING ARTICLE PRAISING SHOLOKHOV, WAS RECENTLY DISPATCHED TO USSR FOR LATTER'S 70TH BIRTHDAY. BENIUC, WHOM ROMANIAN LIBERALS REFER TO AS "RAMO" (SOFTHEADED), WAS RESTORED TO UNION OF WRITERS BOARD THIS SPRING, APPARENTLY AS COSMETIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GESTURE TO SOVIETS (HE HAS LOST MOST REAL INFLUENCE). RCP WOULD PREFER TO AVOID POLEMICS WITH MOSCOW BUT APPARENTLY ISSBEADY TO ANSWER IN KIND IF NECESSARY.

VIETS

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